

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), NU  
SUBJECT: ASST. SECTY. TODMAN VISIT: RESPONSES TO PRESS QUESTIONS

REF: (A) WELTER TELCON OF JAN 9, (B) MANAGUA 0062

1. THERE FOLLOW SUGGESTED RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SET OUT IN REFTEL:  
A. RESPECT FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS CANNOT BE RESTRICTED BY NATIONAL BOUNDARIES. THERE EXIST INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS WHICH ELABORATE THESE RIGHTS SUCH AS THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE AMERICAS WE HAVE FURTHER CODIFIED OUR CONSENSUS ON PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OUR CITIZENS AND THESE PRINCIPLES ARE EMBODIED IN OUR CONSTITUTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH THESE PRINCIPLES AS WELL AS USE ITS GOOD OFFICES IN RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO PROMOTE THE FULLEST COMPLIANCE WITH THESE NORMS.  
B. IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED FOCUS ON AND DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN THE PAST YEAR. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ITSELF. FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN THE DECISION MAKING SHROCESS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION IS NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO CITIZENS IN SOME COUNTRIES, WE WOULD HOPE TO SEE PEACEFUL CHANGE IN THIS DIRECTION.  
C. THE REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA WAS DIRECTED TOWARD OPENING AN EFFECTIVE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO

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GOVERNMENTS. IT DOES NOT IMPLY ANY APPROVAL OF THE POLICIES OF THAT GOVERNMENT. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE IN CUBA. IN FACT, EXTRATERRITORIAL INVOLVEMENT BY CUBAN ARMED FORCES AND PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO CUBAN RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE MAJOR IMPEDIMENTS TO NORMALIZED RELATIONS.  
D. OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS FUCUSSED ON IMPROVING SOCIAL BENEFITS TO THE NEEDIEST PEOPLE TO HELP THEM MORE FULLY REALIZE

THEIR HUMAN POTENTIAL. ALTHOUGH OUR PERCEPTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN A COUNTRY IS NATURALLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WITH REGARD TO ALL OUR PROGRAMS, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT THE POOREST PEOPLE SHOULD BE PENALIZED BY WITHHOLDING ASSISTANCE TO THEM BECAUSE OF ACTIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. THE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS WHETHER THE BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMS ARE TRULY REACHING THE PEOPLE THEY ARE INTENDED TO BENEFIT.

E. I AM AWARE OF INTEREST AMONG MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS IN THE CASE OF MR. CHARITON AND OF THE FACT THAT OUR EMBASSY HERE HAS FOLLOWED THIS CASE CLOSELY IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSURE THAT HE RECEIVES LEGAL TREATMENT AND IS NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.

F. ( THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE CHECKED WITH L) I AM NOT FULLY INFORMED ON THE GOODYEAR CASE BUT BELIEVE WE WOULD TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO COOPERATE WITH A REQUEST FROM THE GON TO CLARIFY THIS MATTER.

G. I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS A DOUBLE STANDARD ALTHOUGH I MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SOME COUNTRIES INCLUDING NICARAGUA HAVE RECEIVED GREATER ATTENTION IN THE US CONGRESS AND US PRESS THAN OTHERS. THIS GREATER FOCUS MAY OR MAY NOT BE MERITED, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ATTEMPTS TO BE OBJECTIVE AND EVENHANDED IN ITS OBSERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, IN ITS REPORTING ON THOSE CONDITIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND IN ITS ADMINISTRATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO ADVANCE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

H. THE U.S. HAS VIEWED WITH INTEREST THE CALL FOR A "NATIONAL DIALOGUE" AND THE DELIBERATIONS DURING THE PREPARATORY STAGES. IT SEEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THIS INITIATIVE IS A RESPONSIBLE ATTEMPT TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHAT APPEAR TO OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND OTHERS AS IMPEDIMENTS TO MORE OPEN DEMOCRACY IN NICARAGUA. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS TO POLITICAL DISAGREEMENTS AND, THEREFORE, WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH WITH INTEREST FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE DIALOGUE.

I. WE HAVE PUBLICLY CONDEMNED TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND. OUR POSITION IN THIS REGARD WAS MADE CLEAR AT THE LAST OASGA IN GRENADA. AT THAT TIME ASSEMBLY WE MADE CLEAR THAT A DISTINCTION IS NECESSARY BETWEEN VIOLENCE OF A GOVERNMENT AGAINST ITS CITIZENRY AND TERRORIST VIOLENCE.

J. THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN PEACE AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AMONG COUNTRIES. WE, THEREFORE, DEPLORE THE ACTIVITIES OF REVOLUTIONARIES OR GOVERNMENTS WHICH COULD TEND TO UNDERMINE PEACE AND SOCIETAL COOPERATION.

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